

## Will Of Late

## Blodgett Is Filed By Atty.

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) Atty. nationally known Dunbar Hotel Cartis C. Taylor, last week, filed the will of the late Chas. S. Blodgett, who passed recently. An undetermined cash sum besides valuable residence and income property worth many thousands of dollars.

This represented long years of effort, foresight, determinedly parved-out success, and thrift by this pioneer businessman, and prominent citizen.

The will for the large estate was drawn up on June 8, 1944, listing the following heirs:

Mrs. Mary Blodgett, wife, of 2171 W. 29th Street; Mrs. Mary B. Watkins, daughter, 2931 Louis Ave. Hayward, Calif.; Harry Blodgett, a son 1867 W. Jefferson Blvd.; Chas. S. Blodgett, Jr., a son; Cecilia B. Broussard, a daughter, of 432 E. 43 place and Wesley C. Blodgett, a son, of 1310 N. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena.

Blodgett, who passed at the age of 80, was for many years associated with a surviving brother, Louis Blodgett, president of the Liberty Savings and Loan Association. This located in the famous Blodgett first time in April of last year and in December we were separated again and the home was broken up!

I went back to him to live with his parents, with his sister keeping our furniture until further arrangements could be made. But he wouldn't try to do anything about getting a place. He would just talk of the place that we had that I had left.

## J.C. Nelson Widow Gets \$100,000

LOS ANGELES — The will of James C. Nelson, wealthy owner of the Dunbar hotel, named his

widow, Mrs. Jewell Franklin Nelson, sole heir, it was revealed last week. She qualified as special and permanent administrator of the \$100,000 estate.

Mrs. Nelson said she expects several contests from other claimants before the estate is settled.

The principal property is the nationally known Dunbar Hotel. Nelson had no children by either a former wife who died here in 1947 or his widow. He is survived by four sisters and a brother.

Mrs. Nelson is a native of Kansas City, Kans. She is the mother of Louise Franklin, stage and screen actress.

## Hattie McDaniel's Mansion For Sale

HOLLYWOOD — Hattie McDaniel's handsome Country Club district home, which the late star of the "Beulah" show, never got to enjoy, is up for sale.

The mansion was made in the classified section of a local daily. No terms were stated in the advertisement.

Miss McDaniel, who died last month, at a San Fernando Rest Home, following a two years illness, boasted the most luxurious home in that section.

### Ranch-Style Structure

It is an eight-room, ranch-style house with two baths and a large handsomely-landscaped yard and full-sized swimming pool, complete with dressing rooms and barbecue pit.

There is a knotty pine guest house near the pool, complete with bath and Pullman kitchen.

The lawn, with a hideaway service yard, is lined with citrus and sycamore trees.

A realty company has the house open daily for inspection.

### 'Oscar' to Howard

## Beulah Leaves \$\$ to Brother

LOS ANGELES — Sam MacDaniel, brother and closest surviving relative of the late Hattie MacDaniel, was provided a \$75 of a week income for the next several years, according to the will

of the Academy Award winner probated here in Superior Court late last week.

The popular screen and radio star, who endeared herself to millions as "Beulah" on the national radio show of the same name, left an estate of less than \$10,000.

Dated Dec. 10, 1951, the will also directs John Charles Gross, executor of her estate, to present to Howard University the Oscar she won for her excellent portrayal in "Gone With The Wind."

MISS MacDANIEL was the only Negro female star to ever win the film colony's coveted "Oscar" award. She bequeathed \$1.00 to her former husband, Larry C. Williams, and left furniture, jewelry and other personal effects to other relatives and friends.

Miss MacDaniel died of cancer at the Motion Picture Country Home in San Fernando Valley last Oct. 26 after a year's illness.



## Finley Wills All to Widow

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — J. Finley Wilson, the late Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, left his entire estate to his widow, Mrs. Leah F. Wilson, according to the papers filed last week in the Probate Court.

Previously it had been reported that Wilson, who died Feb. 19, had not left a will.

The amount of his estate is not known. It is estimated to be in excess of \$250,000. Its actual value will be known when a petition for probate of the will is

11/15/52



## Florida Negro Receives \$180,000 Inheritance

MIAMI, Fla., May 27.—A Negro migrant worker has come into \$180,000 through court approval of an agreement to divide an estate. Zeke Campbell, 56-year-old son of D. A. Dorsey, pioneer Miami real estate owner, received the approval in County Judge W. F. Blanton's court yesterday.

Mr. Campbell had been fighting in the courts for three years, claiming a third interest in Mr. Dorsey's estate, variously estimated as worth between \$750,000 and \$1 million.

Mr. Dorsey's death in 1940 was followed within three months by that of his second wife, Rebecca Dorsey, leaving as sole heirs an adopted daughter Susan and Mr. Dorsey's missing son by a first marriage—Zeke.

(The son Zeke bears the surname of Mr. Dorsey's first wife rather than Mr. Dorsey's.)

Just as the search was about to be abandoned, Mr. Campbell was found, begging his way through a hard life at nearby Hallandale.

Susan and her guardians opposed the claim which Mr. Campbell's attorney, Henry M. Jones, pressed successfully through County and Circuit Courts. The case was before the Florida Supreme Court when attorneys agreed on the settlement.

## Motel Built On Bethune Land

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla.—An estimated 9,000 persons attended ceremonies last week, at which Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune dedicated a new motel on Bethune Velosia beach near here. Land for the motel was donated by Mrs. Bethune.

"I have held this piece of land here on the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian river for more than 35 years," declared Mrs. Bethune. "This is the only place I know of on the Atlantic Ocean where Negroes can buy property and build homes. I want you to build a township here."

This is the home of Zeke Campbell, Hallandale, Fla. migrant, farmer who inherited \$180,000 from his father.

## He's \$180,000 Richer Now



Florida

## Miamians End War Over Estate

# 'Zeke' Dorsey 'Wins' \$180,000

By JOHN A. DIAZ

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—"Zeke" Campbell Dorsey, 56, after being pampered, fed and "protected" by white folk in this small town in the wake of his inheriting a quarter of a million dollars, was awarded \$180,000 last week in Miami. This sum represents a third of his father's estate.

Zeke lived in Hallandale, six miles from here, for forty-one years in obscurity, and no one questioned his sanity or competency as a citizen until someone told him that he was Ezekiel Dorsey, and the son of Dona Albert Dorsey, Miami Negro who had accumulated a million-dollar estate before he died Feb. 29, 1940.

Last September Zeke was told by a judge here that he must remain in county jail until a court hearing to determine whether he is mentally incompetent.

ZEKE'S COUSIN, S. C. Campbell of Titusville, represented by two Miami attorneys, Judge L. E. Thomas and G. E. Graves of Miami, was denied a writ of habeas corpus for Dorsey's release last August by Judge Ted-

der on the grounds that Dorsey could be held in jail for at least fifteen days pending the competency hearing.

Dorsey was jailed after three white residents of Hallandale, where Dorsey still lives, asked for the appointment of a guardian for him, stating that they were afraid that Dorsey would soon be parted from the fortune he inherited.

Campbell and Judge Thomas announced that the white attorney had been replaced; but Judge Grady Crawford, before the hearing was to take place, postponed it indefinitely with the statement that he would hear the appeal when the attorneys for Dorsey decided which attorney would represent him.

D. A. DORSEY adopted daughter, Bethune-Cookman student Dana Susie Augusta Dorsey and her guardians opposed the claim which Zeke's attorney Henry M. Jones, pressed successfully in Judge Blanton's court and, later, in Judge Grady L. Crawford's Circuit Court.

It was before the Florida Supreme Court when the attorneys agreed upon the settlement.

They decided, in effect, that Zeke is better off to take what he can get now than to fight two more years in financial need in the hope of getting more money than he could possibly spend in his lifetime.

THE AGREEMENT calls for and immediate reappraisal of all property in the Dorsey estate and a further payment to "Zeke" of 10 per cent of any amount over \$600,000.

It provided for payment of \$80,000 immediately and \$100,

000 within thirty days. One-third of his inheritance will be in real estate and two-thirds in cash and Government bonds.

The funds will be placed in the First National Bank in Fort Lauderdale, as guardian of his estate. The settlement also was approved by "Zeke's" personal guardian, Foster Ingalls, white. The guardianship became necessary, when, during his court

fight for a share in the estate, Campbell appeared on the scene with attorneys to represent "Zeke" Campbell Dorsey.

THE COURT, holding "Zeke" "incompetent," found his mind to be that of an "8-year-old boy." This situation precludes him from making a will, attorneys maintained.

Funds for food and other ex-

being dismissed as the result of the settlement agreement.



"ZEKE" CAMPBELL DORSEY  
... he's better off with \$180,000





**On Maiden Voyage—** Dr. S. M. McDew Jr. and Dr. H. M. Collier Jr., owners of The Visitor, are shown aboard the good ship shortly after it embarked on its maiden voyage down the Savannah River. They are being congratulated by Ruben Vaughn. Standing in the background is Capt. Samuel Stevens, the third owner and skipper of the ship. —Freeman Photo.

## Negroes To Get Jekyll Beach Strip

BRUNSWICK, Oct. 29 — (AP) — Georgia Negroes, long complaining that there is no ocean beach in the state open to them, will be allocated a portion of Jekyll Island. James D. Compton of Sea Island, a member of the Jekyll Island Authority, said today the southern end of the island is being set aside for Negroes in development plans. He added that two miles of excellent beach and some of the best land on Jekyll, consisting of high ridge and groves, are included. An undeveloped wooded tract will separate the white and Negro sections.



# 13 Others Hit For \$500,000 Taxes

A former manager of Joe Louis, widely known real estate operator and sportsman and 13 other Chicagoans, including six couples, were slapped with U. S. liens totaling \$561,110 for unpaid taxes on policy earnings Monday.

Biggest single claim was \$150,385 slapped in property of Julian Black former pilot of Joe Louis, and his wife. It represented taxes and penalties on earnings of the North and South—East and West policy wheels.

Ernest J. Sauber, director of internal revenue here, said the liens represented Julian Black owed \$334,813 in taxes, with \$189,565 in penalties and \$36,732 interest. They were filed in the county recorder's office.



The second largest claim was against Earl White, former night club operator, and his wife, Roberta, of 1031 Hyde Park blvd. It was for \$120,823.

Reuben Black, owner of a deluxe apartment building at 5111 Drexel blvd., and his wife, Virginia, were charged \$119,218.

Harold Jackson of 5033 Drexel blvd., was named in two separate liens. One was with his wife, Paula, for \$50,077. The other was with Beatrice Jackson of the same address. It was \$51,993.

Jackson, manager of prize fighter Bobby Jarvis, has been cited to appear before the State Athletic commission, Nov. 10, to show cause why his license should not be rejected as a result of the action. He is a former cocktail lounge operator.

Others named were Edward and Beatrice Copeland, 6024 Calumet ave., \$21,114; Sanders and Viola Scott, 5821 Calumet ave., \$33,504; and Armond and Bessie Hanley, 4353 So. Parkway.

White, Reuben Black, Hanley and Jackson were linked with the Green Dragon, Times Square and Cash and Carry wheels.

## Back Taxes

## Joe Louis' Ex-Manager Owes \$150G's

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# Ottawa Business Man Leaves \$50,000 Estate

**J. H. Wilson Had  
Large Holdings  
In Kansas Town**

By LOIS M. SMITH

OTTAWA, Kas.—An estate valued at more than \$50,000 was left by John H. "Bud" Wilson, veteran Ottawa blacksmith, who died January 28, according to Elisha Scott, of Topeka, attorney for the estate. In addition to this an undetermined but "substantial" amount of cash was left on hand, the attorney stated.

The estate, built up through 54 years of conscientious labor, includes some 25 or 30 dwellings and business places in Ottawa. Scott stated that one-half the estate will go to the widow, Mrs. Bertha L. Wilson. The remaining half will be divided among the couple's six children.

The qualities of cheerful industry, native good judgment, business integrity and conscientious thrift, which enabled him to amass a comfortable estate for his family, were coupled with pride, wisdom, civic leadership and religious zeal.

These qualities gained him the respect of the entire community, white folks and colored, alike. One of the largest crowds ever to attend a funeral in Ottawa assembled to pay final tribute to the aged business man. Nearly two hundred telegrams of condolence came to the bereaved family from all parts of the country.

Mr. Wilson was the youngest and only free-born one of 15 children born to slave parents in Missouri. From the time of his father's death when he was seven, he began earning money.

First he learned to roll cigars from tobacco his widowed mother raised. His formal education ceased at an early age when he acquired a step-father who considered school a waste of time.

He learned the blacksmith trade by working in the Ottawa shop of an older brother. Extra money he earned by whittling such objects as canes, mandoline, guit-

ars and small pieces of furniture. A natural musician, he once ran a small circus for fun and profit for a short time.

When the blacksmith shop burned, Mr. Wilson, still a youth, found machine shop work and worked beside grown men in ditch-



J. H. WILSON

ing, sewer and rock quarry work until he had saved money to buy one lot. On this lot he built his own blacksmith shop.

Wilson often worked from dawn until late at night in his shop but he refused to work on Sundays, even for the occasional bonus offered by customers in a hurry. "If it can't wait till Monday," he always said, "then you'll have to get it done some place else."

Sunday always saw him in church with his family where he sang in the choir. He was the oldest member of the Ottawa St. Paul A.M.E. church when he died. To him his religion was a joyful experience.

Mr. Wilson always liked horses

which partly explains his liking for his work. During the years before motorized farm machinery came into use, the many farm horses from miles around provided plenty of work in horse-shoeing. He always wore work pants rather than overalls and was never seen at work without his small black string tie.

Before the days of cars, the Wilson family always had good horses for riding and driving. On Sunday afternoons the family enjoyed rides about town and into the country in the surrey.

His family recalls that he could make almost anything with his hands. When the Wilsons set up housekeeping he made the knives and forks, other equipment and most of their furniture. Still stored in the home is the first baby buggy the family possessed which he made.

He taught his three sons the blacksmith trade but would never permit them to miss school for work. He believed in education and continually impressed upon his children the necessity of an education. He told them that as time went on it would become increasingly difficult to get ahead in the world without one. He never ceased to regret his lack of formal schooling.

His children respected his wishes by continuing their schooling. Five of them became educators. Two of the sons are college professors at the present time. The third son, who has been a teacher, remained to help his father in the smithy after his return from army service.

His children say, "We never questioned his wishes for we recognized his wisdom." They give much credit for their success in life to his inspiring heart-to-heart talks.

Although Mr. Wilson had little formal education his alert mind readily grasped the ideas he got from reading. He seemed to have a natural flair for words and enjoyed filling speaking engagements, among various groups. He had given commencement addresses at Kansas Technical college, Topeka, among others.

Mr. Wilson enjoyed travel. Each summer the entire family took time to take a trip together. They had traveled through most of the states and some of them several times. One one trip they went to the World's Fair in New York City.

He had wanted to go abroad but would not go without Mrs. Wilson, who had no such desire. As late as last Christmas time he had spoken of wanting to take

a trip to Cuba. He had hoped to travel a great deal by plane.

Mr. Wilson took an active part in politics. His opinions were respected by white leaders, who felt free to consult him concerning public opinion in his section of the city.

With all his many activities, the versatile blacksmith found time to work consistently in his Masonic lodge. He was Past Worshipful Master and was the proud possessor of a 50-year-pin.

Death came to the aged man following an illness of one week. He worked in his shop until that time. He never planned to retire. He often said, "When a man quits work he begins to die."

His family likes to recall his devotion to them. They refer to him as a "family man." The family worked together as a group and enjoyed the same pleasures. Mrs. Wilson had always kept in close touch with his work and helped him in all ways possible. In late years the daughter, Miss Freda, has been of inestimable help in administering business affairs.

The highly respected citizen was a man of conviction. He had little respect for a man who could not make up his mind. He always advised his children to get the facts in a case and then to decide on which side they stood.

A favorite verse he often repeated to his children was,

"Not in the crowd  
That throngs the street,  
But in thyself,  
Triumph or defeat."

A floral tribute planned by the family in the form of a wheel, for the funeral, symbolized the family circle. White snapdragons formed the rim representing the widowed mother. Pink snapdragons formed the six spokes representing the six children. Yellow daffodils formed the broken hub

in memory of the deceased father.

The six surviving children are: sons, J. Leod Wilson, dean of AM & N college, Pine Bluff, Ark.; Claude L. Wilson, faculty member, Prairie View A & M. college, Prairie View Texas; and Lloyd H. Wilson, former educator, Ottawa; daughters, Mrs. Leta Wilson Allen, former teacher, Denver, Colo.; Miss Cozetta Z. Wilson, manual arts therapist, Tuskegee veterans hospital, Tuskegee, Ala.; and Miss Freda Wilson of the home.

The entire community was saddened by the death of their friend. All unite in saying, "He was a good man."



## **\$500,000 Oil Profits Asked By Californian**

NEW ORLEANS — Wilbur O. Archie, of Pasadena, Calif., filed suit in the United States District Court of Louisiana last week for oil claims totalling \$500,000 against the Shell and Bardhall oil corporations.

The suit asks an accounting for oil and gas extracted from 88 acres of land in Terrebonne Parish, leased to the companies by Archie. A previous demand was made for payments since 1945. Archie claims that the companies have refused to pay rental fees due him.

Archie is being represented by Attys. I. H. Spears of Pasadena and Earl J. Amedee, local attorney.



37 1952

Michigan

# Value Hotel Man's Estate At \$82,968

*Page 2*  
DETROIT—The inventory of the estate of the late Walter Norwood, hotel owner and business man, was filed Tuesday before Probate Judge Thomas G. Murphy.

*Aug 28-52*  
The estate was appraised at \$82,968.

*Del.*  
Norwood died in Los Angeles, Calif., in July, 1951.

Norwood owned the popular Norwood hotel on Adams in Paradise Valley. He formerly owned the 450-room Fairbairn hotel on East Columbia, near the downtown loop.



# Rewarded for 31 Years Of Service to Woman

By CHARLINE SANDERS

The reward of faithfully working for 31 years was given Melvin Babb, 48-year-old butler, when he was named in the will of his 80-year-old employer, Miss Elva Stapp, who died last Monday. He was bequeathed a three-story house and furnishings at 3800 Warwick and \$10,000, which will be paid at the rate of \$100 a month.

The story begins when Melvin Babb, then 17, saw the roof of a house blazing at 3800 Warwick and quickly warned and aided two retired music teachers who lived there. The boy was employed a short distance from there where he received \$3 a week and a chance to go to Western Baptist seminary.

## Given Life-time Job

Three weeks later, March 22, 1921, he was given a lifetime job as a houseboy for the retired teachers, following two Filipino students who were returning to their homeland. Being able to do the work of two, Babb was given the job of trained butler. His salary was \$5 a week for 15 years, then he was given \$10 a week.

He recalled that he had cooked and served for as many as 26 at dinner and would begin serving breakfast as early as 6:30 o'clock.

## Former Arkansan

Babb is formerly from Newport, Ark., and was the valedictorian of his high school class. He supported himself through school by working as a laborer for the Rock Island railroad. Seeking an opportunity for a college education, he came to Kansas City, Kas., and enrolled in an embalming school there, while being employed at Armour and Co.

After finding the school too expensive, he secured a job as houseboy at the old University Women's club at 38th and Warwick and entered Western Baptist seminary.

## Only Four Vacations

Babb told The Call that during his 31 years of employment by Miss Stapp and Miss Pearl Burdette he had only four vacations.

At the death of Miss Burdette in 1940, Babb's salary was raised to \$14 a week and two years ago

it was raised to \$25 a week.

He told The Call that he worked at night for Southwestern Bell Telephone company at the Westport office for 11 years.

Babb has one aunt in Kansas City, Mrs. Martin Hudson at 2203 Michigan. He has been a member of St. Stephen Baptist Church for 30 years.

Nine employed girls are now living in the house, the legatee said. He will not dispose of the house until a later date.



MELVIN BABB



## **Buys Exclusive Beach Resort**

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (GLOBE) — What appears to be the biggest financial transaction ever made by a lone Negro took place last week when J. C. Forbes, prominent showman and producer, brought out the interest of his two white partners and became sole owner of Forbes Beach, located in Madison Township in New Jersey. The property, which was purchased last year for a reported \$85,000 is now estimated to be worth more than \$100,000.

The beach covers 42 acres and has a quarter of a mile of surf. It has a huge club house with hotel, restaurant, bar and grill, night club and dance hall. There are two cottages with 14 rooms, landscaped garden and facilities to accommodate 2,500 persons a day. The resort will be open the year around.

Mr. Forbes formerly owned the famous Pasadena Clubs in Newark and California, the Oriental Gardens in Washington and Richmond, and the Havana Gardens in New York. For the past 30 years or more, he has produced and promoted variety shows.

The State Department of Health has announced that the Raritan Bay waters, on which Forbes Beach is located, were tested and found perfect for bathing. An early report to the effect that the waters were polluted, had caused scores of bathers to be cautious about bathing in beaches along the New Jersey coast.

Mr. Forbes expressed a desire to make the resort the finest in the East, and strictly interracial.



## Woman Hits Sweepstakes For \$140,000

NEW YORK — (ANP)— Mrs. Marie Lake, 59-year-old widow who lives on Staten Island, hit the Irish sweepstakes jack-pot Saturday and won a first prize worth \$140,000. *P. 5*

The surprised woman had a ticket on Teal, the winning horse. Excitement ran high in Staten Island, and the widow was bombarded with reporters and photographers. *Thurs. 2nd*

She told them she hadn't decided what she planned to do with her winnings, but she plans to provide for her daughter and her eight grandchildren. *37m*

Another winning ticket was held by two other Negroes, Jasper DePass a kitchen helper and his friend William McDonald Brown, both of whom live at 1251 Pacific st., Brooklyn. DePass said he planned to keep his job, but he and his wife are going to take a plane trip to Brazil. Brown plans to buy a home for his mother who lives in North Carolina.

## 'Bojangles' Estate \$24,169, Goes To Second Wife

NEW YORK (NNPA) — The second wife of Bill (Bojangles) Robinson, tap dancing stage and motion picture star, is the sole heir to his estate totalling \$24,169. *43. After American*

The estate consists of insurance policies, naming Elaine Dash Robinson of 2588 Seventh Ave. as beneficiary, according to an appraisal filed in the State Tax Commission, State Office Building this week. *4-52*

Mr. Robinson, a highly-paid star who gave away a fortune, died November 25, 1949. He was 71 years old.



# Wills All But \$800 To Family

By A. M. RIVERA JR.

DURHAM, N. C.—The will of the late Dr. C. C. Spaulding was filed in Superior Court here last week, and although an estate value was not given, unimpeachable sources informed the Courier that the former president of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company left an estate valued at approximately \$150,000.

All but \$800 of the estate was bequeathed to his widow and four children.

THE WILL stipulated that in addition to her share for the estate, Mrs. Charlotte Garner Spaulding, second wife of the deceased, receives \$150 monthly for the rest of her life, and life-interest in the home-place at 1006 Fayetteville Street. She is also to receive the household furnishings and his automobile and trailer.

Dr. Spaulding's four children, all of whom were born to his first wife, are: Charles C. Spaulding Jr., Margaret Spaulding Shearin, John Aaron Spaulding and Booker Benjamin Spaulding, all of Durham.

Upon his wife's death, the home-place is to go to his four children.

DR. SPAULDING willed \$500 to Mrs. Ethel S. Berry, who served as his secretary for twenty years. He also bequeathed \$200 to Mrs. Maggie Parker, and \$100 to Clem (Buster) McDougald, if they were in his employ at his death.

Under terms of his will the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, of which Dr. Spaulding was president is to serve as executor with his wife and his son, Charles Jr., as co-executors.

The will was dated Sept. 14, 1951.

Dr. Spaulding, under provisions

of a codicil dated July 31, 1952, left to his son, John and his son's wife, a lot at 1002 Fayetteville Street.

DR. SPAULDING, according to his will, had previously given Charles Jr., and his daughter Margaret, \$1,500 each to buy lot on which to build a house. He also had given another son, Booker, a lot worth \$1,000.

## Spaulding Leaves \$138,703 Estate

DURHAM, N. C., Aug. 25.—C. C. Spaulding, revered leader and financier, left an estate of \$138,703 when he died Aug. 1, an inventory shows.

Personal property valued at \$17,953.85, real estate including 22 houses and lots listed at \$38,250 were among the assets. He carried \$82,500 worth of insurance.

All but \$800 was bequeathed to his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Garner Spaulding and his children, Margaret L. Shearin, Charles, Jr., John A. and Booker B.

Spaulding who died at 78 after a distinguished career in business and inter-racial relationship, was president of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Farmers and Mechanics bank, and the Mutual Building and Loan Association.

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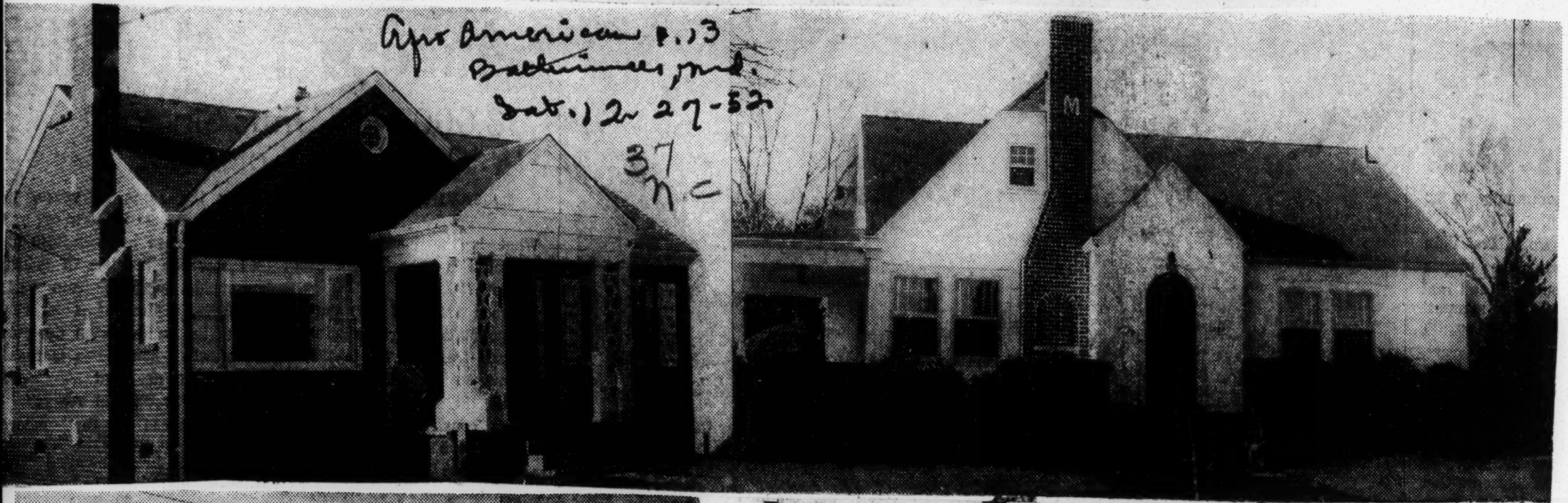
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# Reidsville, N.C., Rich Tobacco Center, Has Variety of Cozy Homes



Prosperous tobacco center in Rockingham County, N.C., is Reidsville which has over 4,000 colored residents. Typical of comfortable homes in the town are those pictured here. Left photo, home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Turner. He's a machine operator in tobacco factory.

Center, home is owned by Mr. and Mrs. L. H. McLaurine. He's a mortician. Right, home of Mrs. A. H. Clark, widow of one of Reidsville's physicians. She and her three sons live here. For more photos of Reidsville, see AFRO MAGAZINE in this issue

## Restaurant, Tourist Home



Among Reidsville, N.C., business enterprises is the Plaza Restaurant and tourist home located on the north to south route,

Highway No. 29. W. E. Johnson is the proprietor. See other Reidsville photos in AFRO MAGAZINE in this issue.



## Former Oil Magnate Wins \$20,000 Suit On Tax Assessment

TULSA, OKLA. (ANP) — Luther Tucker, of Chicago received a check for \$20,408 from the Federal government as over assessment on income taxes and interests covering the years 1916-1923.

In 1950, Tucker found he had made an overpayment of more than \$12,000 and filed a suit in the Federal court in Tulsa. Interest on the sum amounted to \$7,585.

Tucker, who at one time owned an oil-producing estate in Greek County, Okla. made a recent trip to Tulsa where he received the \$20,000 check.

## Former Muskogee Man Gets U. S. Check For \$20,000

Refund Paid Former Oil-Rich Creek Freedman

TULSA. — Luther Tucker, now of Chicago but formerly of Muskogee, was in Tulsa Saturday to pick up a check for \$20,408.93.

The check was issued to Mr. Tucker by the federal government as over assessment on income taxes for the period from 1916 to 1923. The payment ended a suit instituted by Mr. Tucker in November, 1950.

Mr. Tucker, a native of Creek County, was at one time the owner of 160 acres of oil-rich land. He was one of a small number of Muskogee Negroes who became nationally known as "Oklahoma millionaires." They garnered and spent huge fortunes from oil leases and royalties.

In 1950, Mr. Tucker discovered that he had paid the federal government too much income taxes for the period mentioned above. With the aid of a lawyer, he estimated the surplus at \$12,825.20. It was a neat Christmas present.

He instituted suit in the federal court here. An audit was ordered and the report was in favor of Mr. Tucker. Interest owned by the government was computed at

\$7,585.73, which brought the payment to \$20,408.93.

## Bury Forest Anderson, Okla's Richest Farmer

EARLSBORO, Okla. — Forest Anderson, known as the richest colored man in Oklahoma, was buried here last week at the age of 78.

One of the most successful farmers in Oklahoma, Mr. Anderson owned more than 2,000 acres of land, much of it in the old Seminole oil fields. He also owned the bank at Boley, Okla. and had other valuable real estate holdings throughout the state.

## Forest Anderson Found Dead in Bed

Maid Finds Lifeless Form When She Called Deceased To Breakfast

EARLSBORO. — Death came to Forest Anderson, 78, reputedly the richest Negro in Oklahoma, sometime Tuesday morning according to a telephone conversation with his daughter, Miss Ethel Anderson, Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Anderson, who teaches school in the neighborhood, says she left home around 7:30, and entered her father's room before leaving, and found him sleeping, but the maid who entered to call the deceased to breakfast, went to the bed after repeatedly calling him and found him cold in death. Physicians when later called, said Anderson died of a heart attack.

Anderson was one of the most successful farmers in Oklahoma and owns more than 2,000 acres of land, much of it in the old Seminole oil field. In addition he owns the bank at Boley and has other valuable real estate holdings in several cities of the state.

The deceased came to Oklahoma from Sheldon, South Carolina in 1907, locating in Seminole county where he remained until the time of his death. Several children from various sections of Oklahoma are on their way to Oklahoma to attend the funeral, which was held at Earlsboro Monday afternoon.



# \$80,000 Left To Chauffeur, Housekeeper

Power Of Attorney  
Given To Employee,  
Also Car, Diamond

PHILADELPHIA

A man, who has not been "broke" since he was 14, and an equally as well situated housekeeper will share the bulk of the estate of Mrs. Laura M. Blithe, an Oak Lane widow, who died Sept. 20 at the age of 81.

Harry B. Fortune, who has lived at the Blithe home, 705 Kenilworth ave., for the past 35 years, and Mrs. Viola B. Saunders of 3616 Germantown ave. have been bequeathed \$40,000 each.

Mr. Fortune, whom Mrs. Blithe gave the power of attorney several years ago, served as chauffeur and steward. Following the death of her husband, Wesley L., an architect, in 1946, he took care of her business and acted as her spokesman.

He also received Mrs. Blithe's automobile, her diamond engagement ring, silver, china vases, electric clock, chiffonier, and glassware.

A 32-year employee, Mrs. Saunders also received jewelry, cut glass and linens. Both she and Mr. Fortune may occupy rent-free the Blithe home until it is sold and the proceeds added to the residuary estate.

After bequests, totaling \$26,500, are given to seven relatives and friends, the residue will be divided equally between the two employees. Their share of the estate, said to exceed \$100,000, is tax-free.

Mr. Fortune is a native of Fredericksburg, Va., and is a bachelor. He has attended the Lutheran Church in Melrose Park and, until his work became so confining, belonged to the Elks and Citizens Republican Club. He was a staunch friend of the late Magistrate Amos Scott and his family.

## Housekeeper Philadelphian

Mrs. Saunders is a native Philadelphian. She and her husband, Harry R., are members of Saint Paul's Baptist Church.

Mrs. Blithe, whose will was filed for probate last Wednesday, was president of the Country Week Association. Her mother was one of the founders of the association which caters to every race, color and creed, Mr. Fortune stated.

Both Mrs. Saunders and Mr. Fortune were praised highly by Albert C. Weymann, an attorney, and one of the executors.

Calvary Episcopal Church, 41st and Brown sts., is a beneficiary of the \$25,000 estate of William J. Crout of 4640 Spruce st. He died Sept. 23.

Crout directed that the church receive \$2,000 at the death of the last of three life tenants.

## Aged Dentist

## Wills Estate

## To Handyman

Properties Estimated

At \$200,000; Note

Names Beneficiary

PHILADELPHIA

"He was the only friend I had,"

Jesse Sims, 62, a handyman, declared when he was told that a wealthy recluse had died and left him his entire estate which is estimated at \$200,000.

Dead is Dr. Henry H. Kuhn, 80, a retired dentist, who was found in his gas-filled kitchen at 1702 Edwin st., near Rudge ave. and Poplar st. sprawled on the floor. On the kitchen table was his will, written on the back of a notice that informed him he was delinquent in taxes on some of his property.

The will stated, "After all of my debts are paid, I leave all of my earthly possessions to Jesse Sims of 1434 N. 10th st." It was signed H. H. Kuhn.

Dr. Kuhn lived in seclusion in a junk littered two-story brick house. Sims estimates that his total properties are worth about

\$200,000. A friend of Dr. Kuhn's for about six years, Sims says they met when the dentist wanted some carpentry done on his houses.

He declared that Dr. Kuhn had complained that another carpenter had fleeced him. He promised Sims that if he would look after him and his properties, he (Dr. Kuhn) would take care of him.

## Collected Rents For Him

After the first carpentry work that Sims did for Dr. Kuhn, he began doing odd jobs for him and then collected some of his rents for him. These amounted to \$200 or \$300 a week Sims told officers who informed him of the recluse's death.

The handyman also explained that Dr. Kuhn's wife had died many years ago and that a sister had died a few years ago. There were no children or other relatives left.

Chief hobby of the elderly man was acquiring toys, broken electric trains and radios, Sims stated.



## Faith Renewed

Mrs. Anna Dupree and her husband of Houston, Texas, are colored millionaires, who pulled themselves to financial heights by their own boot straps. Sharing their wealth, they've contributed \$20,000 to a home for the aged, \$20,000 to a home for the neglected and abandoned colored children of Houston, and \$11,000 toward a dormitory at Texas Southern university—all within three short years. But, since most of the brothers are not willing to share a vote for the welfare of the race, Chum, we're booked to "KEEP 'EM JUMPIN' STEADY" as the race stands or falls together.

## Strange As It May Seem, Texas Has More Negro Millionaires Than Any State Says Ebony

Chicago, Ill.—Fabulous Texas, often regarded as the land of miracles, can boast of another extraordinary accomplishment when it begins tabulation of its colossal achievements.

Here in this giant state—where the Negro is still confronted with segregation, poll taxes and discrimination—there are more Negro millionaires than anywhere else in the nation.

This "miracle," so to speak, is revealed for the first time in the lead article in the current issue of EBONY Magazine, leading Negro publication in the world.

The amazing story of how a number of Negroes accumulated great wealth in the state of Texas has never been told before now. "The reason for this is quite simple," reports EBONY. "They wanted to stay out of the limelight because they were fearful of retribution from jealous whites."

Some of the old-timers still insist on staying out of the limelight, so much so that they still live rather frugally with their millions, says EBONY. But the younger Texas millionaires live just like any other millionaires, wearing their wealth for the world to see. "Wealthy cowboy scions often wrestle steers while wearing huge diamond rings, \$50.00 Stetson hats, and \$200.00 hand made boots," says the magazine.

EBONY tells about 81-year-old Mrs. Pinkie Taylor, who owns over 60 oil wells, yet enjoys doing men-

ial work as hired hand.

There is the rich and politically powerful Bellinger family, regarded as the most influential Negro family in the southwest. They publish a Negro weekly in Texas.

While many Negro families in Texas are rich because of inheritance of oil-rich lands, others have made it as a result of their own pioneering efforts such as Leo D. Fontinenot, one of the biggest rice growers in America. More than 30 years ago he purchased five acres of land at \$35.00 an acre in Jefferson County. Now Fontinenot owns hundreds of head cattle, over 3,000 acres of rich farm land and oil wells—with the land worth \$150.00 to \$200.00 an acre.

There is Leon Fisher, who migrated to Overton, Texas 26 years ago from the north, married a member of a rich oil family and then started his own laboratory to produce waxes from crude oil. He made a fortune out of the laboratories and today is regarded as the most brilliant Negro businessman in Texas.

And finally there is Major Kennedy, typ of the oil millionaires. Kennedy, over 72, owns large herds of cattle and owns the town of Easton.

# Signing Of Check Settles How Money Will Be Handled

Liberty — Leon Mitchell took his pen in hand Friday and calmly endorsed a check for almost half a million dollars to be placed in a trust fund for the benefit of heirs to the Orelia Mitchell 3-million-dollar oil estate, and his brother, Vic Mitchell, followed suit, ending a long drawn-out fight among heirs to determine how the money should be handled.

The check which had been already endorsed by the other heirs, was presented to the two brothers before Judge Penny Matthews during a hearing in 75th District Court. The hearing resulted from the refusal of Leon Mitchell and his brother Vic, to endorse the check in June of this year on grounds that the Gulf Oil Company should be required to pay 6 per cent interest for holding the check during the time the case was being fought all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Attorney D. F. Sanders and Alton Watson, of Beaumont who were retained by the Mitchell brothers to represent them, were denied their request for \$20,000 attorney fees by Judge Matthews on grounds that the attorneys had not presented enough testimony to show that their services had "benefitted the estate." The judge, however, left the gate open for the two attorneys to produce the necessary testimony if they can. The \$20,000 was a "chisel down" from the 25 per cent of existing income and 10 per cent of future royalties granted the attorneys on the other side.

The case was carried to the supreme court after the trial court in Liberty and the Court of Appeals refused to act against Leon and Vic Mitchell' distributing fund out of the trust, as bonded trustees. The will of their mother, Mrs. Orelia Mitchell, which was probated in 1940, left the money in the fund so that the interest on it would benefit heirs clear down through great grandchildren.

The suit before the Supreme court was to prevent the distribution of money that was part of the

principal of the estate. According to the will of Mrs. Orelia Mitchell, the law was to impose upon the trustees, the duty to see that the principal be held in trust and invest it and that the interest gained be distributed among heirs. The question settled by the Supreme Court was that the money distributed by the two brothers was part of the principal and the Supreme court issued a mandate, ordering the trial court to place back in trust approximately half a million dollars.

Approximately \$110,000 had been distributed by the two trustees, Leon and Vic Mitchell. Judge Matthews ordered the money refunded of the trust fund. Attorneys for the two brothers were told to see to it that the brother "collects" the money they had paid out and replace it.

At present investments are drawing approximately \$300 a month, and money entered Friday and in the future will be invested in Government loans and bonds and others.

The total income has been estimated at \$30,000 a month from 41 wells in operation, and the property value of the estate is estimated at between 3 and 4 million dollars.

There are eleven living children and approximately 200 grand and great grandchildren. Leon and Vic Mitchell are still trustees along with the American National Bank in Beaumont.

A Mr. Hughes, certified accountant from Beaumont, estimated the income tax on the money released Friday at approximately \$130,000.

## Ebony tells about Negro millionaires of Texas

CHICAGO, Ill.—Fabulous Texas, often regarded as the land of miracles, can boast another extraordinary accomplishment.

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most brilliant Negro businessman in Texas. Finally there is Major Kennedy, typical of the oil millionaires. Kennedy, at the age of 70, owns over 72 oil wells, has large herds of thoroughbred cattle and owns



# GI Wins \$57,000 Estate

NORFOLK — Master Sergeant Nelson Robert McNorton is flying here from his army post in California to claim a \$57,000 estate from his adopted aunt, Mrs. Anna McNorton McFadden, following a Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals decision denying the claim of the surviving husband.

A. Sampson McFadden, manager of the real estate firm of J. C. Brooks & Co., had claimed the estate as the sole survivor. Prior to their marriage in 1942, Mrs. McFadden was the widow of J. C. Brooks, one of Norfolk's largest real estate brokers and investors.

MRS. McFADDEN died without making a will on July 1, 1948. Her estate consists of several parcels of real estate, mostly in the City of Norfolk, having an appraised value of \$57,350, according to an inventory filed by Mr. McFadden as administrator.

Mrs. McFadden had one brother, Dr. Nelson F. McNorton, of Yorktown, Va., who died a few months before she did.

Neither had children of their own. An adopted son of Mrs. McFadden, Danny Brooks, was killed in an automobile accident about eight years ago. The present claimant was adopted by Dr. McNorton in 1933 when he was twelve or thirteen years old.

Mr. McFadden qualified as administrator and claimed the whole estate since Mrs. McFadden had left surviving her no children, no descendants of any children, no parents, no sisters or brothers, and no descendants of any sisters or brothers.

THE DECISION of the Supreme Court, written by Justice C. Vernon Spratley, pointed out that prior to 1942, an adopted child could inherit property from his adopted parents but not "through" them from relatives of the adopted parents,

but the 1942 amendments specifically provided that the adopted child could inherit both from his adopted parents and through them from other relatives.

Under this construction of the law, the court ruled, the adopted son of Mrs. McFadden's brother is the only claimant to her estate, subject only to the courtesy rights of the husband.

In Virginia this is a life estate in all the real property owned by the deceased spouse when there are no children.

The estate became entangled in legal action when Nelson McNorton, 31, a resident of Yorktown, presently serving in the army, sued Mr. McFadden in his own right and as administrator in the Circuit Court here.

Judge Clyde H. Jacobs ruled in favor of the adopted son, and Mr. McFadden appealed to the Supreme Court. He was represented by Herman A. Sacks.

Miss T. Ione Diggs and Miss Bertha L. Douglass represented M/Sgt. McNorton both in the Circuit Court action and in the appeal to the Supreme Court.

## Va. Heirs Break Will In \$400,000 Estate Battle

FAIRFAX, Va. — Judge Paul E. Brown last week in Fairfax circuit court set aside the 57-year-old will of an ex-slave to permit the selling of his 33-acre estate.

Judge Brown ruled in favor of three heirs of Frederick Foote Sr., who amassed property now valued at \$400,000, although at the time of its purchase he was unable to read or write.

### Bought For \$500

The original purchase price of the property was estimated at \$500.

Concurring in the proposal to break the will were his two daughters, Mrs. Margaret Foote Jackson, 65, of 516 Forty-fourth st., ne. Washington, D.C., Mrs. Virginia Foote Jackson, 83, and a brother, Frank C. Foote, 76. The latter two residing on part of the property.

### Owe \$6,000 in Texas

The heirs testified that the valuable land will soon be lost for non-payment of taxes in excess of \$6,000, and which they are unable to pay.

The will originally prevented any of the heirs from selling or leasing any part of the estate, located at Seven Points, Va.

### Worked Day And Night

Mr. Foote, According to Mrs. Margaret Jackson, purchased the land 88 years ago by working on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at night, and his daily farm chores had been finished.

Born in 1800 in Burke, Va., he was freed by President Lincoln's proclamation and fought with the Union Army.



# Heirs Get Right to Sell; Lease 7-Corners Tract Ex-Slave Left

Fairfax Circuit Court yesterday decided to overrule the 73-year-old will of a former slave which left 33 acres of now available land to his children but stipulated it could never be sold or leased.

The ex-slave, Frederick Foote, sr., bought the property at Seven Corners in Fairfax County for \$500. An appraiser yesterday told the court the property's fair market value today is \$400,000.

Judge Paul E. Brown appointed two commissioners to receive offers on the land, which now may be sold or leased on approval of the court.

Foote was born on the Seven-worth Farm, near Burke, Va., in 1800. Yesterday, his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Foote Jackson, 65-year-old Census Bureau employee who lives at 516 44th st. ne., said her father, a slave, obtained \$500 to buy the land by working on the C&O Canal, selling wood and serving as a guide for Union forces during the first battle of Bull Run. He died in 1895.

Mrs. Jackson and two other children were litigants in the suit before the court yesterday. Mrs. Virginia Foote Jackson, 83, and Frank C. Foote, 76, both of whom live on the land now. All wanted the right to dispose of the land.

The children began to feel the pinch of their father's will two years ago. Before that, taxes on the strategically located but unimproved property ran about \$350 yearly. But a reassessment now calls for more than \$3000 in taxes annually.

Mrs. Virginia Jackson told the court yesterday she wished the court would sell or lease the land "so I could get a little place some place else." Frank Foote told Judge Brown he "just wanted to be able to pay the taxes I owe."

Judge Brown was able to grant relief because of a relatively new Virginia law that covers such cases. An appraiser yesterday said the land was worth: \$3000 for one-tenth of an acre between the old and new Wilson blvds.; \$172,000 for 6.5 acres between Wilson blvd. and Lee blvd.; \$214,000 for 25.4 acres between Leesburg Pike and Lee blvd.; and \$4000 for one and one-half acres adjoining the Willston apartments.



The son and two daughters of a former slave are shown after they asked Fairfax Circuit Court to break their father's will that said

they couldn't sell land he bequeathed them. From left are Mrs. Margaret Jackson, Frank C. Foote, and Mrs. Virginia Jackson.



By Henry Rohland—The Washington Post

Frank C. Foote looks at his home, built on the Foote property at Seven Corners, Va. The court overruled the 73-year-old will and said the land may now be sold or leased.